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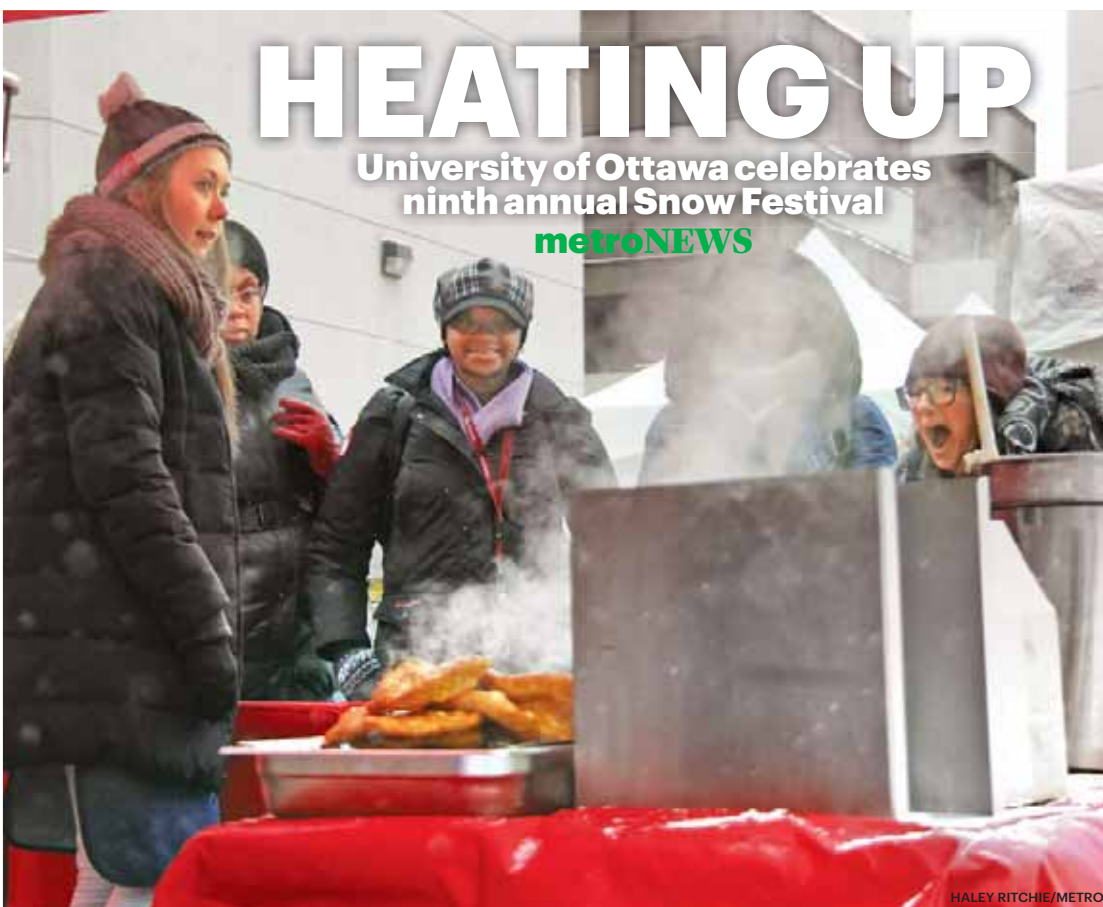


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HEATING UP

University of Ottawa celebrates ninth annual Snow Festival
metroNEWS

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Cyclists call for changes

SAFETY

Higher fines not enough after dooring death, say advocates



Joe Lofaro
 Metro | Ottawa

Some Ottawa cyclists are saying more awareness and more road safety training is a better way to prevent dooring than increasing the penalty for the offence in the Highway Traffic Act.

On Monday, Ottawa police charged a 24-year-old man after a fatal collision involving a cyclist on an e-bike, who was doored on Cumberland Street, causing him to be thrown in front of another truck. The 66-year-old cyclist was pronounced dead at the scene.

Alaadin Murad is facing a charge of opening a vehicle door improperly, otherwise known as dooring.

While the penalty for dooring increased last fall — a set fine of \$365 and three demerit points, up from a \$60 fine and no demerit points — the director of education for the Ottawa Bicycle Club said there is no dollar amount that will make cyclists safer.

"I'm sure as careful as I am and thoughtful I am about cyclists, I don't think you can set that number high enough that it would prevent people from making mistakes," said Bob Hicks. "It's the government who sets traffic fines, but it's also the government who has to be responsible for (cycling) education."

Heather Shearer, an avid cyclist and member of Citizens for Safe Cycling, said the city has a role to play in engineering safer streets so that motorists and cyclist can share the road.

The province should consider a vulnerable road-user law, she said, which would require an offender to take a road safety course.

"When you have a small fine and a few demerits, it really sets the wrong tone as an outcome," she said.

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Sen. Brazeau in stable condition after surgery

Quebec health officials say Sen. Patrick Brazeau is in critical but stable condition in hospital after successful surgery.

A health institution in western Quebec says in a statement Brazeau's life is not in danger and that he was admitted to hospital in Hull early this morning.

There are no details on the type of surgery.

Quebec provincial police say they went to a residence in Mayo, Que., late Monday night to support ambulance technicians and that there is no criminal investigation.

Brazeau was granted an unconditional discharge last October despite having pleaded guilty to

reduced charges of assault and possession of cocaine.

A more serious charge of sexual assault was dropped due to a lack of evidence.

Brazeau still faces a criminal trial for fraud and breach of trust arising from his Senate living expenses, scheduled to take place in March 2016. He was kicked out of the Conservative caucus after he was charged and put on leave with pay. Months later, he was suspended without pay over the expenses issue along with Mike Duffy and Pamela Wallin, but that suspension was lifted when Parliament was dissolved for last fall's federal election.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SENATE

Huguette Labelle to chair advisory board



Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

The Liberal government has tapped a former University of Ottawa chancellor and longtime public servant to chair its new advisory board for Senate appointments.

Huguette Labelle will chair the independent nine-member board, which will be tasked with making "merit-based recommendations" on Senate nominations to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The board, the first of its kind, is part of the Liberal government's efforts to make the Senate more accountable and less partisan.

"I am very pleased to establish this important new Advisory Board, and it is truly inspiring that such eminent Canadians have agreed to serve on it," Min-

ister of Democratic Institutions Maryam Monsef said in a release. "The new, independent process will help inject a new spirit of non-partisanship into the Senate."

Labelle was chancellor of the University of Ottawa from 1994 until 2012. She has held a number of senior roles as a public servant, including president of the Canadian International Development Agency, chair of the Public Service Commission of Canada and deputy clerk of the Privy Council.



The new, independent process will help inject a new spirit of non-partisanship ...

Maryam Monsef

INTERNET PRIVACY

Rideau Centre denies privacy flaw in free Wi-Fi

The Rideau Centre says there was no privacy breach in its free Wi-Fi network, despite a claim from a post on social media that shoppers' email addresses were exposed online.

The incident, which was the subject of a Reddit post on Monday, allegedly exposed the email addresses of previous shoppers who

have logged onto the public network.

But Cindy VanBuskirk, a spokeswoman for the Rideau Centre, said in an email statement there were no privacy issues with the free Wi-Fi.

"Our technicians believe the user may have seen an auto-fill from his own address book and assumed it was a prior wifi user," the statement said. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Para Transpo riders to protest new buses

TRANSIT

New ramps too steep to use in winter, says one commuter



Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Para Transpo users are taking issue with the service's new vehicles.

Ryan Lythall said riders will meet at city hall on Jan. 27 to protest Para Transpo's new kneeling buses, which have a retractable ramp similar to regular OC Transpo buses rather than a wheelchair lift.

Lythall, who uses a motorized wheelchair, isn't sure yet whether he'll attend — he doesn't agree with banning the buses altogether — but he said the safety concerns are valid.

The ramp is too steep to use in the winter, he said, because snowy sidewalks limit the room and momentum wheelchair users need to get to the top. He almost rolled backwards last week.

"If I didn't have someone behind me, I would have fallen," he said.

But Coun. Shad Qadri, who sits on the accessibility advisory committee, said Para users had plenty of opportunity to



Transit operations assistant manager Troy Charter, left, and Para Transpo driver Nick Cummings, show off the new vehicles that will replace the fleet this year. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

voice concerns in 2013, when OC Transpo let customers test two possible models before purchasing.

"Nobody mentioned (the slope) as a concern," Qadri said. Accessibility advocate Catherine Gardner did complain about it in December, but Qadri said that was a one-off. Gardner is organizing the rally, according to Lythall, but she couldn't be reached for comment.



If I didn't have someone behind me, I would have fallen.

Ryan Lythall

OC Transpo's Troy Charter said feedback for the 15 new buses currently in service has

been "very positive." Any hesitancy to use the ramp softens once customers realize drivers will help them. "It's change, and there's a period of familiarization," Charter said.

The new buses are roomier and have air suspension — an upgrade from the old truck-style vehicles. That's what customers asked for, Charter said.

Para's entire 82-bus fleet will be replaced by spring.

TRANSITWAY

No nightmare on Scott Street with detour

The western Transitway shutdown is rolling along better than expected, residents say.

The dedicated bus track closed Sunday between Empress Avenue and Merton Street, pushing between 2,100 and 2,600 buses a day onto Scott and Albert streets for the next two years while light rail is built.

Nearby residents have been vocally opposed to the detour, installing big signs yelling "No Way!" along the corridor.

But the horror show everyone expected didn't materialize during Monday's rush hour.

"Certainly it's gone more smoothly than we feared," said Cheryl Parrott, who led the fight against the detour.

"There haven't been the backups that we thought there might be."

The biggest problem was confusion over where to catch the O-Train. Instead of dropping people at Bayview station at the top of the bridge, drivers were letting people off at Bayview Avenue.

That left many lost customers looking for a way to the train, Parrott said.

"It was a bit of a schmozzle," she said. The big tests are yet to come, she added: dealing with the first big snowstorm, and suffering the detour's extra noise and air pollution once homeowners have their windows open in the summer.

Kitchissippi Coun. Jeff Leiper has been watching the changes closely, and even hired a helper to direct pedestrians and cyclists to safe passage this week.

He said the city has generally done a good job of preparing for the detour.

The backup from the Transit-

way onto Scott was minimal, and buses were getting through the Bayview intersection quickly, he said.

Bus drivers are being courteous to cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, he added, and Scott was well plowed.

"The city really got the street into as tip-top shape as it could be," Leiper said.

Parrott said some trees need trimming along Scott to accommodate double decker buses. One large branch was shorn off during Monday's commute.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO

IN THEIR WORDS

Journalists take to Twitter to announce departures

Several Ottawa Sun staff announced their dismissals publicly on Twitter yesterday. Here's what they had to say about their jobs and the journalism industry.

"Went thru this when #Halifax Daily closed, now I'm among #Postmedia #Sun layoffs. Twice in 8 years. Still love #journalism though. #Ottawa" tweeted night editor Shane Ross.

Others tweeted about their experiences working at the Sun.

"Ya. I was one of the casualties at the Ottawa Sun. Loved my time there. Don't regret moving from Toronto to take this gig," tweeted multimedia Keaton Robbins.

"Had amazing 19 1/2 years @ottawasuncom. Would not trade a minute. Best of luck to others also moving on today. Let's stay in touch," said Don Wilcox.

Some looked ahead to the next step.

"Glad to be sharing laughs with (former) Ottawa Sun employees right now," reporter Matt Day tweeted. "It certainly helps. Job hunt begins tomorrow."

"I wouldn't change my time at the Sun for anything. It's just the nature of the business. Here's to the future," said Dani-Elle Dube. "Former @ottawasuncom journos plotting to become Uber drivers," said Corey Larocque.

Sports reporter Chris Hofey said he would continue covering the Ottawa Fury and Ottawa 67's, regardless.

"Support local media folks," he said. "It will be gone at some point."

Court reporter Tony Spears and editor Mike Sutherland-Shaw also announced their dismissals on Twitter. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Ottawa Citizen, Sun to merge newsrooms

MEDIA

Postmedia has cut about 90 jobs amid revenue loss



Lucy Scholey
Metro|Ottawa

A dozen laid-off Ottawa Sun journalists left their newsroom on Tuesday afternoon carrying boxes full of their belongings after Postmedia Network, which owns the paper, announced deep cuts across its newspaper chain.

The Sun journalists were among the 90 Postmedia journalists who lost their jobs as the company tries to find \$80 million in savings.

Part of that exercise involves merging the newsrooms of the Sun and the Ottawa Citizen, which is also owned by Postmedia, with a single editor tasked with overseeing both newspapers.

The company is also merging its Calgary, Vancouver and Edmonton papers and offering buyout packages in Vancouver and Ottawa.

In a memo, Postmedia CEO Paul Godfrey said the company would continue producing separate brands in each market, and will try to meet its goal of finding \$80 million in savings by the end of the 2017 fiscal year.

"That significant of an initiative requires looking at everything in a new way and considering approaches we have never taken — truly nothing is off the table," he said.

Paul Morse, president of Unifor Local 87-M, which represents 3,000 Ontario media employees, called the cuts "dramatic."



Multimedia reporter Sam Cooley makes his way to his car after being laid off from the Ottawa Sun on Tuesday. Postmedia owns two newspapers in each of the cities of Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Merging newspapers hurts journalistic independence, he said.

"This is a really horrible day for the news folks affected across Postmedia newspapers," he said.

The union will explore all legal options, he said.

CWA Canada is taking it a step further. The union that represents 6,000 media employees is calling on the federal government to limit media ownership and "prevent destructive debt-leveraged takeovers of

important national companies."

"It is an outright scam and there should be financial regulations to prevent it," said CWA Canada President Martin O'Hanlon in a news release. "It's particularly egregious in this case because they're not just destroying a company and hurting shareholders, they are well on their way to destroying quality print journalism in Canada — a huge blow to the public good."

On Monday, news broke that Godfrey wanted an urgent phone meeting with Mayor Jim Watson. BuzzFeed reported on

the news after an email was accidentally leaked to a U.K.-based reporter with a similar name, Jim Waterson.

Brook Simpson, a spokesperson for the mayor, confirmed Watson was among several mayors who was briefed on Postmedia's changes.

Ottawa Citizen editor-in-chief Andrew Potter recently announced he would be leaving the newspaper for a job in academia.

The Edmonton Journal's editor-in-chief Margo Goodhand and managing editor Stephanie Coombs were also laid off.

GOVERNANCE

Bonuses prompt backlash

Postmedia Network Canada Corp., Canada's largest newspaper chain, has begun making deep cuts at its media properties and merging newsrooms in Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

In the midst of the cuts, Postmedia is facing backlash for paying nearly \$1 million in bonuses to executives, for their hand in the deal to buy the Sun newspapers.

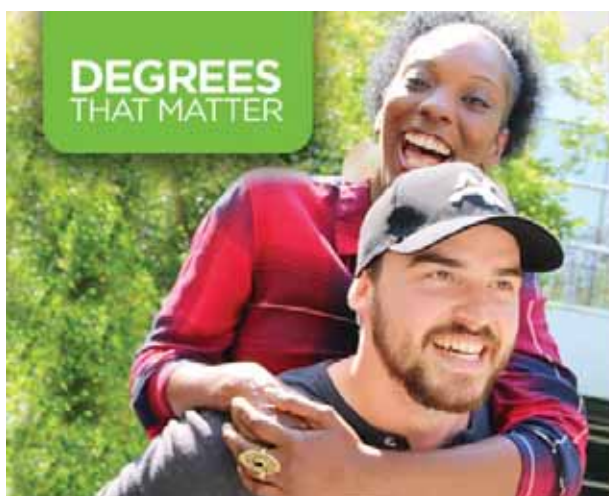
A total of \$925,000 in discretionary bonuses was paid out to its top six executives in the 2015 fiscal year ended in August, according to company documents filed Wednesday.

CEO Paul Godfrey, whose base salary was unchanged at \$950,000, received \$400,000 in the payout. He was also the only executive to receive a bonus under the short-term incentive plan, even though the company fell short of its operating profit target used to calculate that bonus structure. Godfrey's total compensation was \$1.76 million, up from \$1.42 million the previous year.

Ousted chief operating officer Wayne Parrish received a \$150,000 bonus plus a \$1-million severance package after his termination in July. That was twice his \$475,000 base salary.

Spokeswoman Phyllise Gelfand said the payments were part of a special transaction bonus related to the highly leveraged \$316-million takeover of Sun Media dailies and digital properties.

Postmedia's decision to maintain bonuses is unusual because the optics are terrible, said Richard Leblanc, a corporate governance expert at Toronto's York University. "It's frowned upon because you don't want to be seen to be cutting costs and cutting jobs and at the same time taking a bonus to do that," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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1 Snack alert — Tyler Aldercotte of The Smoque Shack was one among many “comfort food” vendors at the University of Ottawa’s Snow Festival.

2 Le Spin — Students from the university’s ski and snowboard club prepare for the annual Le Spin ski



and snowboard rail jam Tuesday evening.

3 Sleepy teepee — A limited number of students will be sleeping overnight inside the campus teepee.

4 Priceless treats — Free BeaverTails brought a



long lineup of students to the middle of campus, despite a citywide frostbite warning.

5 Enjoying the festival — Julianne Farley, 21, and Angele Brazeau, 21, stay warm with BeaverTails and hot drinks.

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U of O embraces winter

SNOW FESTIVAL

Ninth annual event delivers



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Students spent some serious time in the cold on Tuesday for the University of Ottawa's ninth annual Snow Festival — proving that a love of BeaverTails can overcome even -30 C temperatures.

“Students really like it,” said organizer Isabelle Décarie. “It

gives them something fun to do in the middle of winter when there's less activities going on outside.”

The Snow Festival takes place in January every year and includes a variety of events and activities on campus. This year, curling, snowshoeing, maple taffy, skating and winter comfort food were on the schedule from Jan. 18 to 21.

“We try to incorporate sports and food and different activities,” said Décarie.

The festivities place an emphasis on trying something new, and the winter culture

events appeal to both international students and Canadian students.

Every year, the hardest of students sign up to spend a night in a University of Ottawa-branded teepee to learn about indigenous culture and history. Attempting to stay warm in the canvas structure is a unique way to learn about the elements.

“It's very cold, but the host Stéphane Lévesque brings special equipment and tells the students how to dress to stay warm,” said Décarie. “It's just one other way to experience the winter.”

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XLT, XLT2.5, F-150 SuperCrew 4x4, F-250 Gas Engine models) for up to 72 months, or 2015 Focus (excluding BEV) and 2016 Fusion models for up to 84 months to qualified retail customers. On approved credit (DAC) from Ford Credit Canada Limited. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: \$25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 60 months, monthly payment is \$220.84 (\$167.62 cost of borrowing is \$0 per APR, and total to be repaid is \$25,000). Down payment on purchase financing may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit Canada Limited. Offer valid between January 5, 2016 and February 1, 2016 (the "Offer Period") to Canadian residents. Receive \$500 towards the purchase or lease of a new 2015 or 2016 Ford Mustang (excluding 50th Anniversary Edition and Shelby), Transit, Edge, Flex, Escape, Explorer, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series Chassis, Transit, F-150, F-250 to F-350 (all F-150 Regular models excluded) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Only one (1) bonus offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle. Taxes payable before offer amount is deducted. Offer is not stackable. **Until February 1, 2016, lease a new 2015 Ford Escape, F-150, Fusion, Titanium for up to 60 months, and get 0.99% LRP on approved credit (DAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR. Taxes payable on approved credit at 1.19% \$50 down payment or equivalent trade in. Retailer trade in. Monthly payment is \$282/\$391. The sum of up to 160 months (12 monthly payments) required for optional features, accessories, and insurance. At prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Some conditions and mileage restriction of 80,000 km per year applies. Across kilometrage charges are 12¢ per km, plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges assessed, full charge to your local dealer for details. **Until February 1, 2016, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Focus SE, Focus Titanium models for up to 84 months, monthly payment is \$255/\$242 (\$386/\$492) (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives a bi-weekly payment of \$198/\$150/\$137/\$186). interest cost of borrowing is \$0 or \$250. Down payment on purchase financing may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit Canada Limited. Offer valid between January 5, 2016 and February 1, 2016 (the "Offer Period") to Canadian residents. Receive \$500 towards the purchase or lease of a new 2015 or 2016 Ford Mustang (excluding 50th Anniversary Edition and Shelby), Transit, Edge, Flex, Escape, Explorer, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series Chassis, Transit, F-150, F-250 to F-350 (all F-150 Regular models excluded) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). 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AGING POPULATION

Delay health-care funding talks: Ontario

As the country's health ministers prepare to meet in Vancouver, Ontario is already saying decisions on changing the health-care funding formula should be left for another day.

During last year's election campaign, the Trudeau Liberals promised to negotiate a new health accord with the provinces and territories, including a long-term deal on funding.

British Columbia Health Minister Terry Lake says B.C.

and the Atlantic provinces are not satisfied with the current funding formula because it doesn't recognize the higher costs borne by provinces with aging populations.

But Ontario wants the provinces, territories and federal government to focus on what they want in a new health care accord at the meeting that begins on Wednesday and talk about the distribution of funds at a later date.

Ontario Health Minister

OTHER ISSUE

Ontario also wants to set up a working group to look at the issue of out-of-province coverage of air ambulance services.

Eric Hoskins says scientific and policy experts are divided on the health cost impacts of an aging population, which he insists are "not at

all clear."

Hoskins says a change in the health funding formula would "essentially be a wash" for Ontario, so it's in a unique position to look at any increased burden on the system from the growing population of aging baby boomers.

"The evidence points to the contrary, that it does not necessarily, and is not creating a tsunami of increased health-care costs, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Vendors sell jarred goods at the Beechwood Market, which is opening at the St. Charles Market for four Saturdays this winter. CONTRIBUTED

Beechwood goes indoors

VANIER

More than 20 vendors set to sell produce at winter market

FESTIVAL

The market's last day, Feb. 13, will coincide with this year's Vanier Winter Carnival.

The Beechwood Market is taking its fresh foods bazaar indoors this winter.

More than 20 vendors will sell produce at the winter market on four Saturdays — Jan. 23 and 30 and Feb. 6 and 13 — from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. inside the former St. Charles Church, at 131 Barette St.

The Vanier market will be one of Ottawa's few fresh produce markets open during winter months.

"I can't believe there aren't more already. The east end is lacking a bit of these kinds of amenities," said the market's manager, Chris Penton.

"There isn't a whole lot of opportunity for vendors to unload stuff if they have it throughout the winter."

The Beechwood Market first opened in the summer of 2014 at 99 Beechwood Ave. and has offered local produce and VQA wines every Saturday during

warmer months. Penton started the market after Quartier Vanier's farmers market was cancelled the year before.

The winter edition of the market will be a smaller version, but will still have local vegetables grown in greenhouses, cheese, eggs, apples, baked goods and more.

Penton's inspiration for the winter market came from a visit to the Forks, a meeting space in Winnipeg that has an indoor market during the winter months.

"The indoor part of it is what got me thinking about this," he said.

"There aren't many places for people to go hang out indoors."

Developer ModBox has plans to develop the former St. Charles Church site, which is hosting the winter market, into a new retail hub and residential building later in 2016.

ALEX ROBINSON / METROLAND MEDIA

CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT

Pearl Jam makes comeback

They're still alive — and they're coming back to Ottawa.

Canadian Tire Centre announced Tuesday that Pearl Jam, that ubiquitous grunge band that got you through the '90s, will play the NHL arena on May 8 as part of its North American

tour.

The band will also visit Quebec City on May 5 and Toronto on May 10.

Tickets go on sale Jan. 29, although prices have not yet been announced.

Tickets for Ottawa's show will be available at capitaltickets.ca.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO

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Havoc over email foul

CITIZENSHIP

'Human error' to blame for immigration fee blunder

Immigration officials are red-faced in the wake of an email sent in error to 9,000 people demanding payment of their \$490 right-of-landing fees.

The email indeed came from Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada (IRCC) but the problem is the recipients had either already paid the fee and become permanent residents, or in some cases, their immigration applications were nowhere close to being approved.

The foul-up caused panic for those already settled and disappointment for those still in the queue who thought their cases had finally been concluded. While some speculated the computer system had been hacked and applicants' information com-

promised, the department assured them this was not the case and their information was safe.

Having been caught up for 15 months in the backlog of the Canada Experience Class applications for permanent immigrant status, James Cassidy of Toronto was thrilled when he got an email from immigration at 11:34 a.m. Monday, asking for his landing fee, thinking his application had been approved.

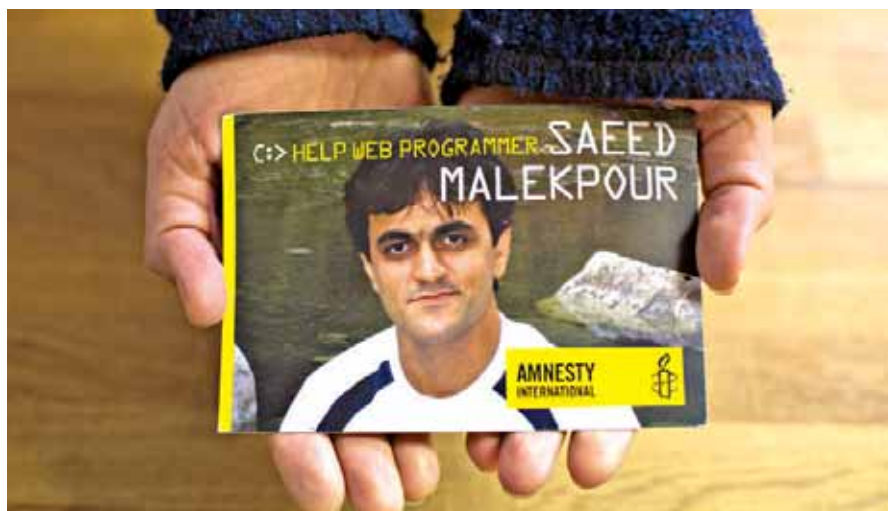
"Obviously, I was delighted and I paid the fee straight away. However, my joy was short-lived."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



The question is what we do about the payment now. Are we any closer to getting our permanent resident status?

James Cassidy



Iranian-born Saeed Malekpour, an engineer, emigrated to Canada in 2004 and was awaiting Canadian citizenship as a permanent resident.

He worked as a freelance web developer in Victoria B.C., but returned to Tehran to visit his fatally ill father. In October 2008 he was arrested on charges of working with a foreign government to subvert the clerical regime with Internet pornography.

After months of interrogation and torture, he is now serving a life sentence in Evin prison.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Time may be ripe to lift Iran sanctions

When the plane carrying Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian and two other freed American prisoners touched down in Germany on Saturday, a new page was turned in U.S.-Iran relations.

The prisoners' release, enabled by the diplomatic bond between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, also gives new hope to two Canadian permanent resi-

dents behind bars in Iran.

Saeed Malekpour, serving a life sentence, and Mostafa Azizi, an eight year term, are also political prisoners. And relatives are awaiting word from the Trudeau government that the chilly relationship between Canada and Iran that grew colder with the severing of diplomatic relations in 2012 will thaw enough to allow a new rapport.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

welcomed the "quiet diplomacy" that led to the Iran nuclear deal.

In his election campaign, Trudeau pledged to reopen the Tehran embassy that was shuttered under the Harper government. But Foreign Minister Stephane Dion said that while it "cannot be done overnight," it would be done "properly in a timely manner."

A more rapid move could be the lifting of Canadian sanctions

against Iran. A briefing note written for Trudeau and obtained by The Canadian Press says that Ottawa could lift them "as early as winter 2016 and as late as summer 2016."

Dion suggested the cabinet would make a decision quickly — a move that could give Canadian companies the chance to bid for Iranian contracts that might be snapped up by the U.S.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Iraqi civilians dying at 'staggering' rate

BAGHDAD

Nearly 19,000 were killed over 22-month span: UN report

Iraq witnessed a sharp increase in civilian deaths following the fall of large swaths of territory to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the summer of 2014. Now despite a string of recent battlefield losses for ISIL, civilians in Iraq continue to die at a "staggering" rate, according to a new United Nations report.

At least 18,802 civilians were killed and another 36,245 were wounded in Iraq between the start of 2014 and Oct. 31 of last year, according to the report released Tuesday.

"Despite their steady losses to pro-government forces, the scourge of ISIL continues to kill, maim and displace Iraqi civilians in the thousands," UN envoy Jan

Kubis said in a statement.

The numbers are nowhere near the death tolls recorded during Iraq's civil war. In 2006 more than 34,000 civilians were killed, according to UN data.

Civilian casualties since the rise of ISIL in Iraq are considerably higher than the preceding years of relative stability. In 2011, the number of civilian deaths due to violence was at its lowest since the civil war, with fewer than 2,800 killed.

UN human rights chief Zeid Raad al-Hussein said the civilian death toll may be even higher.

"Even the obscene casualty figures fail to accurately reflect exactly how terribly civilians are suffering in Iraq," he said.

The UN report also documented human rights abuses, such as ISIL's conscription of 3,500 people into slavery. Many of those are women and children from the Yazidi religious minority who were taken hostage and forced into sexual slavery in 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



People carry the body of a victim killed in a truck bombing in Jameela market in the predominantly Shiite neighbourhood of Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq, in August 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

INDIA

Suicide of student triggers protest

Shouting slogans and holding placards on Tuesday, hundreds of students angrily protested the death of an Indian student who, along with four others, was barred from using some facilities at his university in the southern tech-hub of Hyderabad.

The protesters accused Hyderabad University's vice chancellor and a federal minister of unfairly demanding punishment for the five

lower-caste students after they clashed last year with a group of students supporting the governing Hindu nationalist party.

Police are investigating whether actions by the officials contributed to the 26-year-old doctoral student's death, which they say was a suicide. He had been a member of a group representing Dalits, the lowest caste in India's Hindu caste hierarchy.



Students protest at university after a colleague's death. TSERING TOPGYAL/AP

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

ISIL confirms death of 'Jihadi John'

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has acknowledged the death of the masked militant known as "Jihadi John," who appeared in several videos depicting the beheadings of Western hostages, the SITE Intelligence Group said Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Green-thumbed astronaut nurses zinnia to full bloom

The International Space Station now has a bright pop of orange, thanks to commander Scott Kelly's green thumb. Kelly showed off his gardening results — a thriving zinnia with a beautiful orange-yellow bloom — over the weekend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Twitter outage hits users

ONLINE

Company has had several disruptions this year

Some Twitter users had to do without early Tuesday after sporadic outages knocked the social media site offline in the U.S. and Europe.

Reports of malfunctions began to appear in the U.S. as well, but it was unclear how widespread the outages were. By mid-morning on the East Coast, desktop and mobile versions of Twitter appeared to be working, though the company wouldn't say if they were back to normal.

A company spokeswoman also wouldn't reveal any details as to the possible cause of the outage, declining to comment beyond Twitter's tweeted statement. Twitter Inc. which has 320 million active users, tweeted that it is aware of the issue and is trying to fix it. Its most recent notice was sent around 4 a.m. Eastern.

Users said the service was not accessible on desktop comput-

ers. Twitter's blog posts, corporate info and most other pages on the Twitter.com website were also inaccessible, displaying the blue error screen.

There were complaints of users receiving a "server error" just before 8 a.m. Eastern.

Twitter's mobile app was partially functioning for some users but its timeline updated new tweets sporadically. Its search function appeared disabled as some hashtags or keyword searches returned no results. Users' profile pages appeared to be accessible from the mobile app. Third party services, such as the TweetDeck service, also returned a blank page.

Twitter has suffered several service disruptions so far this year. On Monday, some users could not access Twitter on mobile and web for about 10 minutes. The service was disrupted on Friday for about 20 minutes.

The outages come at a time when Twitter and its executives are trying to convince Wall Street that they can deliver bigger revenue and profits. Meanwhile, the company's stock continues to languish at an all-time low.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

66%

The percentage Twitter shares have lost in value since peaking at \$52.87 US in April.



Twitter was down in several countries in Europe and Africa on Tuesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE

Debt to threaten stability: Report

The federal budget watchdog says that in the coming years increasingly indebted households are poised to become the most financially vulnerable Canadians in decades.

The parliamentary budget office released a report Tuesday predicting the ratio of debt payments — including principal and interest payments — relative to disposable income will creep upward over the next five years as interest rates rise.

The office projects that by the end of 2020, this ratio will increase to 15.9 per cent of disposable income from its late 2015 level of 14.1 per cent.

"Household debt-servicing capacity will become stretched further as interest rates rise to 'normal' levels over the next five years," the report said. "Based on PBO's projection, the financial vulnerability of the average household would rise to levels beyond historical experience."

The increase would mean households would be even more vulnerable to negative shocks to their income or to interest rates, which could also have an adverse effect on financial institutions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEDIA

Broadcaster buys stake in The Onion

The Spanish-language broadcaster Univision is buying a stake in the owner of satirical website The Onion, in what may be considered a serious grab for younger viewers.

"I'm happy to announce that we've just finished a deal with what might at first seem like an unusual partner: Univision," wrote Onion Inc. CEO Mike McA-

voy in a memo to employees. He said Univision has acquired "a good chunk" of Onion Inc. and may acquire the remainder down the line.

Once solely comedic enterprises have earned younger audiences who rely on them as a news source. The Pew Research Center found that 12 per cent of Americans cited The Daily Show

on Comedy Central as the place where they got their news, with that number skewing heavily toward younger viewers.

While The Onion veers well outside of news boundaries, its preposterous articles regularly involve politics, health care and science. Univision says it sees comedy as crucial in covering news for young people, particu-

larly with the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

There is a scramble by TV networks for younger viewers and their spending dollars. Disney, the owner of ABC, Disney and ESPN, has invested in digital video network Vice; Comcast's NBCUniversal has put money into BuzzFeed and Vox.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Disney recalls onesies

Walt Disney Parks and Resorts are recalling Darth Vader and Disneyland 60th anniversary infant onesies because the snaps can detach and pose a choking hazard. No injuries have been reported. The recall involves 10,000 onesies.

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URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



THE ISSUE

I have two cats. Certain allergic friends show up at my house and, forgetting I have them, request an antihistamine. If you're that allergic, shouldn't you carry a Claritin in your wallet?

Dear Ellen,

I have two cats. Certain allergic friends routinely show up at my house forgetting I have them, and then request an antihistamine. A while back, a friend even brought another friend, whom I didn't know, and the friend of the friend seized up and started pleading for me to find an antihistamine. Sorry, but cats aren't iguanas or tarantulas — it's not that rare for someone to have one. He should keep a bloody Claritin in his wallet if he's that allergic. I spent 10 minutes searching the house for a remedy while my other guests waited to have their cocktails made. Advice?

Victor, Toronto

Dear Victor,

You don't mention whether or not your 10 minutes of searching resulted in finding an antihistamine or not. Should I wonder if, even if you did find one, that you might have pretended otherwise in order to let the allergic friend of the friend suffer? Or even have to leave the party if the symptoms overwhelmed him?

That wouldn't be the best example of good manners, I suppose. But I could certainly understand the impulse. And I say this as a guest who has committed the sin you describe more than once: I know I'm al-

Guests who come for dinner should come with the attitude that they're lucky to be there at all.



lergic to cats, have forgotten about my host's cats and have then asked said host for an antihistamine on the few occasions I've failed to pack my own.

Now that I see it from your point of view, I'm acutely aware of how annoying this must be. To all my cat-owning friends who've so kindly provided me with pills over the years, please accept my sincere apologies!

The point is guests who come for dinner, be they allergic, non-allergic, invited or uninvited, should come with the attitude that they're lucky to be there at all. The only demand any guest may reasonably make is to have access to a washroom with a working door.

Otherwise, their job is to show abject gratitude from the moment they enter bearing a bouquet of flowers, bot-

tle of something nice, and a policy of praising everything you own, say or do — from the cleverly situated salt-encrusted boot tray in your front hall right down to the dusty after-dinner mints you apparently filched from the checkout counter at a family restaurant in 2002.

You as host, meanwhile, have the equally important responsibility of pretending everything your guests say or do is utterly charming: "No, I didn't know you were a vegan — let me whip up a toasted-kale and chickpea loaf for you"; "Don't worry about that old crystal; it's just a wedding gift my great-grandmother smuggled out of Odessa before the revolution. It was bound to break some day hahaha!"

It sounds as if you did play the perfect host in the scenario you describe, Victor,

so you don't need etiquette advice. What you do need is practical advice so you can avoid the ill-effects of lasting resentment over rudely allergic guests and your simmering anxiety over failing to get drinks quickly into the hands of your other guests.

You have two choices: 1) Keep some antihistamines on hand, ideally in the spice cupboard between the anise and the Baharat, which you can easily access when an allergic freeloader shows up; 2) Rid your house of all antihistamines so you can truthfully say, "Sorry, I don't have anything on hand, but there's a Shoppers just down the road."

And then start serving those drinks.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Dear media execs, when times get tough, the tough take pay cuts

If he has a heart, which some journalists doubt, Paul Godfrey might now be regretting those diamond-studded Sun newspaper cufflinks.

Turns out, they're not such a good look for a job-slashing newspaper CEO.

Yesterday Postmedia announced it's cutting 90 jobs and dramatically changing the local news scene in four cities by merging the newsrooms of its Sun-tabloid and broadsheet papers in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and Ottawa.

As Canadian journalists flocked to Twitter to decry the news, Godfrey's name topped the trending charts, and photos of his executive bling flooded newsfeeds.

To be clear: Newspapers everywhere are in crisis. Print-ad revenue continues to dive, and online ads can't come close to filling the gap.

But the crisis has yet to hit the salaries of Canadian media executives.

Journalists, ad reps and admin staff are the ones bearing the brunt of the industry's beating. Yet the C-suite is still downright lucrative. And the incongruence is galling.

In a memo to staff, Godfrey used pat euphemisms such as "ongoing pressures" and described the cuts as a "transformation." Postmedia's plan to cut \$80 million by the end of 2017 "requires

looking at everything in a new way," he noted. "Nothing is off the table."

Except, presumably, cutting his own salary.

Postmedia posted a net loss of \$4.2 million late last year. At the same time, Godfrey enjoyed a pay raise. He earned \$1.76 million in 2015, up from \$1.42 million the year before. He and his executive-suite colleagues were handsomely rewarded to the tune of \$925,000 for having overseen the acquisition of the Sun chain earlier this year — a deal that made yesterday's "transformation" possible.

Of course, Postmedia isn't the only company with well-paid executives and struggling newspapers. Quebecor paid its CEO nearly \$15 million in 2014, the year after it slashed more than 1,000 Sun Media jobs. According to Bloomberg, the total calculated compensation of the CEO of Torstar, which owns this newspaper, the Toronto Star and Metroland papers, was about \$3 million in 2014.

(The Globe and Mail is privately held, and isn't required to divulge executive pay.)

Every North American paper is suffering, and obviously it's not because every CEO is bad at her job.

But the least executives can do is show times really are rough, and take a pay cut.

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Best of men's runway

With male models about to walk the runways in Paris and New York, we take a look at the biggest Fall/Winter 2016 fashion and beauty trends straight from Milan. THE CANADIAN PRESS/GETTY IMAGES

Boyish bohemian at Gucci

Creative director Alessandro Michele unpacked a chest full of 1970s memories for his latest Gucci menswear collection. His runway-realized looks reference a happy boy-hood, with Sherlock Holmes-style detective capes and caps, Snoopy and Woodstock motifs on T-shirts, a Charlie Brown sweater, and a crinkly Western cowboy shirt with boot-leg jeans. Grown-up Gucci looks incorporated floral prints, a mainstay of the house, into embellished and embroidered coats and suits, and pyjamas.

Lap of luxury at Fendi

Life is pretty plush at Fendi. A model glided down a carpeted spiral staircase in a soft plaid overcoat-cum-dayrobe with matching trousers to soothing soul music. Think Jack Nicholson playing golf in his robe, one of the references on Silvia Venturini Fendi's mood board backstage.

Fendi's looks were all about cozy comfort, right down to the lush accessories: A parka with yellow fur trim was paired with a large yellow, furry bag. Plaids and checks on jackets, pants and bags created a homey feel, and Fendi boldly paired mohair jackets with matching pants, for a definite Fozzie Bear feel.

Urban formal at Emporio Armani

The Emporio Armani man is urban and sleek. There is no excess, just the essential. Giorgio Armani used new technology to bond materials for his more contemporary line, creating new forms and a futuristic feel. Formal double-breasted jackets were worn with pleated trousers. A shawl jacket with diagonal zipper was paired with athletically cut pants.

BEAUTY

Side part

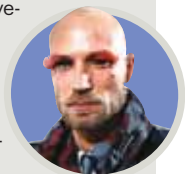
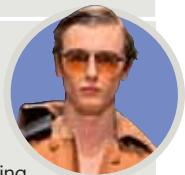
The go-to look for designers, Prada distinguished itself by opting for a slicked-over do. Philipp Plein exaggerated the look by letting roots show on dyed hair.

Long hair

Many models strutted with long hair breezing out behind them. At Vivienne Westwood the look was bedraggled, while at Calvin Klein models wore their shoulder-length locks with a slick center part.

David Bowie beauty

The most eye-catching looks were at Moncler Gamme Bleu, where models sported camouflage face paint and false lashes. While Vivienne Westwood sent models out wearing vibrant eyeshadow that matched their shirts. AFP



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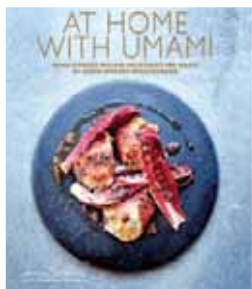
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BOOK EXCERPT AT HOME WITH UMAMI (\$24.95)

An apeeling tuna melt

Umami is the super-savory fifth basic taste. Both ubiquitous and elusive, present but often unrecognized, it has the extraordinary ability to enhance individual flavors, transporting dishes to another level. A Japanese word that translates as “savory deliciousness,” umami is a universal concept that can be experienced by anyone with a tongue.

Tuna Melt with Banana

Sound nuts? Well you'd be nuts not to try this...

Ingredients

- 2/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon canned tuna
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 packed cup plus 1 tablespoon grated/shredded mature/sharp Cheddar cheese
- 2 teaspoons Taste #5 Umami Bomb/Paste Original Recipe [available on Amazon]
- freshly squeezed juice of 1/2 lemon
- 2 tablespoons coriander/cilantro, finely chopped
- freshly ground black pepper
- 2 thick slices sourdough bread
- butter
- 1 small red onion, cut in half and finely sliced

- 1 banana, sliced diagonally

Directions

1. Preheat the grill/broiler to the highest setting.

2. In a medium bowl, mix together the tuna, mayonnaise, most of the Cheddar cheese (leaving some to sprinkle on top), Umami Bomb/Paste, lemon juice and coriander/cilantro and season with plenty of freshly ground black pepper.

3. Place a large frying pan/skillet over a medium high heat. Butter one side of each slice of bread and place the bread, buttered-side down, in the pan/skillet. Top with slices of onion and banana.

4. Cook until the bottom of the bread is well toasted. Transfer slices of bread, toasted-side down, to a baking sheet and top with the tuna mixture and a sprinkling of extra Cheddar.

5. Put under the preheated grill/broiler for around 5 minutes until the topping is golden and bubbling.

Serve immediately.

This recipe serves 1.



Laura Santtini CONTRIBUTED

Laura Santtini is a food writer and 'gastropreneur' whose debut cookbook, *Easy Tasty Italian* won the Best First Book Award at the Guild of Food Writers Awards. A world expert in flavour, her follow-up book *Flash Cooking* pioneered a new cooking genre. Laura recently stepped into the family business — the Italian restaurant Santtini in Belgravia, famed for being Frank Sinatra's favorite restaurant in the capital.

RECIPE

Try adding Parmesan cheese to your ice cream treat

Parmesan Ice Cream Sandwiches with Chocolate Balsamic Strawberries

Ingredients

- 2 cups whipping cream
- 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon golden granulated sugar (preferably organic)
- 1 1/2 cups Parmesan cheese, finely grated

Chocolate balsamic sauce

- 2 tablespoons aged balsamic vinegar (Belazu is good)
- 1/12 oz. 100 per cent pure cacao or 85 per cent cacao dark/bittersweet chocolate

To serve

- 500 g ripe, juicy strawberries, stalks removed

- and sliced into quarters
- 1 handful of basil leaves, shredded
- 16 of your favourite crackers or plain cookies
- soft whipped cream
- salted caramel popcorn

Directions

1. Bring the cream to the boil with the sugar, stirring constantly.

2. Remove from the heat and add the grated Parmesan cheese, stirring until it melts. Allow to cool.

3. Scrape the mixture into a suitable lidded container and freeze overnight.

4. To make the chocolate balsamic sauce, put

the balsamic vinegar and cacao in a bowl and stir until well combined.

5. Toss the strawberries and basil in the chocolate balsamic sauce.

6. Remove the ice cream from the freezer. Using a hot knife cut into squares (or rectangles) slightly smaller than the size of a cracker.

7. Sandwich an ice cream square (or rectangle) between 2 crackers and serve with a large spoonful of chocolate strawberry mixture, a dollop of whipped cream and a sprinkling of salted caramel popcorn

This recipe serves 4.
Excepted from At Home With Umami (Ryland Peters & Small).



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Oscar hopefuls lead CSA nominees

AWARDS

Room, Brooklyn have 14 nominations together

The Canadian Screen Awards will have some Oscar-style glamour this year.

Room, the chilling story of a young mother and five-year-old young son held in captivity by her kidnapper, leads the CSA pack with 11 nominations, including nods for Best Motion Picture, Best Director (Lenny Abrahamson) Best Actress for Brie Larson, Best Actor for Canadian Jacob Tremblay and Best Supporting Actress for Joan Allen.

The Irish-Canadian production, winner of the 2015 TIFF

People's Choice Award, has four Oscar nominations.

Triple Oscar nominee Brooklyn, also an Irish-Canadian coproduction, is up for three CSAs, including Best Motion Picture, although star Saoirse Ronan was overlooked.

It's too early to say which stars will be seen on the red carpet or at the CSA gala, hosted by comedian Norm Macdonald at the Sony Centre and telecast on CBC on March 13.

Past CSA host Martin Short will receive a lifetime achievement award at the awards evening.

Martin Katz, chair of the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, pointed out there were 21 Oscar nominations for Canadians this year, helping make it a "record-breaking year"

for homegrown film.

For the first time there are 10 Best Motion Picture nominees, including Corbo, The Demons (Les Démons), Felix and Meira, The Forbidden Room, My Internship in Canada, Our Loved Ones (Les êtres chers), Remember and Sleeping Giant, as well as Room and Brooklyn.

On the TV side, comedy Schitt's Creek led with 14 nominations (plus one Digital Media nomination). Father-son team Eugene Levy and Dan Levy are both up for Best Performance by an Actor in a comedic role, with Annie Murphy and Catherine O'Hara both nominated for Best Performance by an Actress in a Comedy.

Orphan Black has 13 nominations, including Best Actress for star Tatiana Maslany.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOTCH

Raise a toast to Mr. Burns

Peter Rockwell
For Metro Canada



Short of the first stanza of Auld Lang Syne I'd be hard pressed to quote a single word Robert Burns ever wrote.

Not that that's ever stopped me from raising a glass to the bard every Jan. 25.

Though scotch, the liquid soul of Burns' native Scotland, is the only acceptable tippie when paying him tribute it can be a pretty

polarizing spirit.

The blended variety is the gateway to Scottish whisky with The Famous Grouse (\$26.29-\$29.95) a mellow starter scotch.

Whisky from powerhouse single malt distilleries Highland Park and The Macallan are part of the blend and that pedigree has helped make it the best-selling scotch in Scotland.

If you're a go big or go home kind of drinker try the Laphroaig 10 Year Old (\$75.77-\$80.95).

A single malt from the Isle of Islay, it's a fantastic, palate-pounding mix of sea spray, peat

and iodine.

If that sounds as appetizing as a mouthful of haggis, you'll be surprised how quickly you'll grow to appreciate its "unique" personality.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Snacks

Craving a savory snack? Depending on what you grab, a few handfuls can give meal-size amounts of fat.

PICK THIS

Terra Vegetable Chips Original

Portion 20 chips
Calories 200
Fat 12 g



SKIP THIS

Planters Cocktail Peanuts

Portion 1/3 cup
Calories 330
Fat 27 g



HERE'S WHY



Even more fat than a serving of Honey Garlic Chicken from Manchu Wok

Peanuts and chips can be addicting, as we never eat only a handful. We often seek out these munchies while watching TV, sitting at our computer or socializing at a party — all which leads to mindless eating. When you're throwing snacks back by the handful, you're also devouring tons of calories, fat and salt. Nuts may be heart-healthy but they're not hip healthy! Opt for tasty vegetable chips. Moderation is key.

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Denis Leary's knack for writing banter



Sirens follows some fast talking Chicago EMTs. CONTRIBUTED

THE SHOW: *Sirens*, Season 1, Episode 1 (Crave)
THE MOMENT: The first conversation

Three Chicago EMTs are speeding to hospital. The driver is Johnny (Michael Mosley), whose cop girlfriend has a hot male partner. Attending to the victim is Hank (Kevin Daniels). The new guy is Brian (Kevin Bingley).

Their conversation is lightning fast.

Johnny: She wouldn't say that if she didn't still care about me.
Hank: Alternate theory — she wants into Denzel's pants.

Brian: I think his name is Danny.

Hank: Denzel to me. Hot Mo Better Blues Denzel. (to Brian) I'm gay, by the way.

Brian tries to be cool.

Brian: You know who I think is a good-looking guy? Tim Tebow.

Hank: Who's your ICE (in case of emergency contact), Brian?

Brian: My mom. Well, she lives right upstairs.

Johnny: You got a girlfriend?
Brian: We broke up. She got clingy.

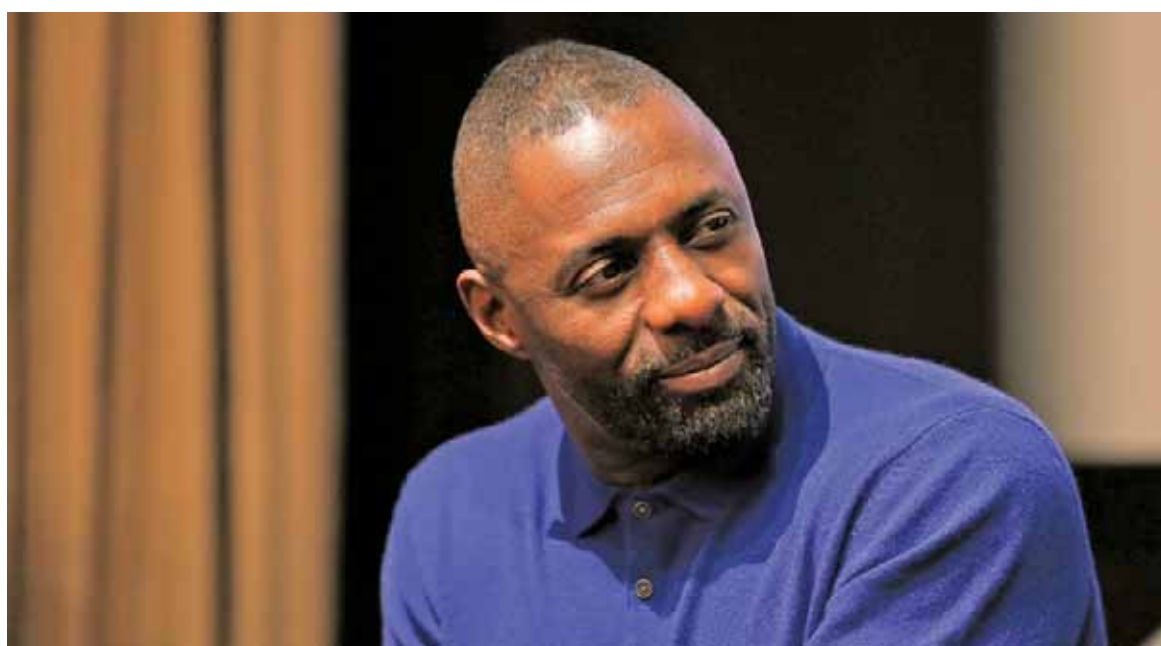
Hank: Your girlfriend's clingy. Tim Tebow is handsome. I got a better shot at p— tonight, and all I'm thinking about is Denzel's lips.

Johnny: Can we stop calling him Denzel?

I knew nothing about this show (USA cancelled it last April), but this is love at first sight. Isn't that a thrill — when you know instantly you're in expert hands?

Denis Leary co-created *Sirens*, and like his previous series, the excellent *Rescue Me*, it shines brightest when characters give each other s—. Leary has a genius ear for how funny people talk.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



In London, Idris Elba told an audience in Parliament that British broadcasting needed to overhaul its approach to diversity. GETTY IMAGES

Celebrity protests prompt promise of diversity review

ACADEMY AWARDS

Oscars boss promises review of its membership

Amid calls for a boycott of the Academy Awards over its all-white acting nominees, the academy's president said it was time for major changes, even as British actor Idris Elba called for an overhaul in diversity policies.

Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences President Cheryl Boone Isaacs issued a statement promising more diversity, and quickly, after both Spike Lee and Jada Pinkett-Smith spoke out on Monday.

In London, Elba told an audi-

ence at Parliament that a lack of diversity in films and television is not just an American problem.

Elba, the London-born star of *The Wire* and *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* said Britain was successful, diverse and multicultural — but “you wouldn't know it if you turned on the TV.”

In a speech Monday, Elba said British broadcasting needed to overhaul the way it worked, asking questions such as: “Are black people normally playing petty criminals? Are women always the love interest or talking about men? Are gay people always stereotyped? Are disabled people ever seen at all?”

Critics have praised Elba's performance turn as an African warlord in *Beasts of No Nation*, but he did not receive an Oscar nomination

Hollywood's Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences is facing boycott calls and promising change after nominating an all-white roster of performers for the Oscars for the second year running. Last year's all-white acting nominees also drew calls for a boycott, though not from such prominent individuals.

Isaacs has made a point of presenting a more inclusive show this year. The Feb. 28 broadcast will be hosted by Chris Rock and produced by *Django Unchained* producer Reginald Hudlin and David Hill.

The academy didn't respond to messages left Monday.

When Oscar nominations were announced Thursday, Isaacs acknowledged she was “disappointed” that all 20 acting nominees were again white

and promised to “continue the conversation” on diversity. Isaacs has worked to diversify membership for the academy, which a 2012 study by the Los Angeles Times found is overwhelming white and male.

But on Monday, Isaacs was more explicit and promised an examination of the academy and a more intense drive to diversify.

“This is a difficult but important conversation, and it's time for big changes,” she said in a statement released Monday night. “The Academy is taking dramatic steps to alter the makeup of our membership. In the coming days and weeks we will conduct a review of our membership recruitment in order to bring about much-needed diversity in our 2016 class and beyond.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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BOOKS

**Publisher announces
Caitlyn Jenner book deal**

Grand Central Publishing announced plans for the spring 2017 publication of Caitlyn Jenner's memoir, co-written by Friday Night Lights author Buzz Bissinger, who wrote a Vanity Fair cover story about Jenner.

According to Grand Central, the memoir will follow Jenner's life “from Bruce to Caitlyn, and her brave transition into womanhood.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LITERATURE

Giller Prize jury includes author Hill

The Book of Negroes author Lawrence Hill has been selected to chair this year's Scotiabank Giller Prize.

The homegrown literary award announced two other Canadians will be on its five-member jury — New Republic senior editor Jeet Heer, and former Giller finalist Kathleen Winter, who was nominated for Annabel — as part of the lineup.

British author Samantha Harvey, who was previously nominated for the Orange Prize and the Man Booker Prize, and Alan Warner,

the Scottish writer of eight novels including *The Stars in the Bright Sky*, round out the list.

Together the jury will pick this year's winner of the best Canadian novel or short story collection published in English.

The long list of Giller contenders will be revealed on Sept. 6, while the short list will be unveiled on Sept. 26. An awards gala will be held at Toronto's Ritz-Carlton on Nov. 8.

The Giller Prize, founded in 1994, is named after the

late literary journalist Doris Giller.

The winning author receives \$100,000 while the other finalists will get \$10,000.

Last year, the Giller Prize expanded its jury from three to five members for the first time in its history.

Organizers said they hoped the move would bring lively debate to the deliberations.

Hill's *Book of Negroes* was longlisted for the Giller Prize in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



If you're in it for the heavy haul



REVIEW

Canyon a great choice for those with oversized needs

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada



Up until now, full-size trucks have been the primary home for diesel engines. But for 2016, GM's midsize GMC Canyon, and its mechanical-twin Chevrolet Colorado, also add diesel power to the portfolio.

It's a four-cylinder with a displacement of just 2.8 litres. But while the Canyon's available 3.6-litre V6 engine makes 269 lb.-ft. of torque, the low-end power that's important on trucks, this little diesel churns out 369 lb.-ft.

It gives this midsize a maximum towing capacity of up to 7,600 lbs. (3,447 kg), an extra 600 lbs. over the V6's top ability.

Given its more manageable footprint over the full-size GMC Sierra, the Canyon could be a good choice for tradespeople who need to haul loads into the city core, or easier parking for those who regularly tow boats or campers.

The diesel's better fuel economy is also a bonus, but you'll

need to drive it a lot before you begin to see the savings.

The engine is a \$4,390 option, and only available on the two highest SLE and SLT trims levels. It comes in 4x2 or 4x4 configuration, but can only be added to Crew Cab models, not to Extended Cab.

It's a great engine to drive, especially in combination with the Canyon's well-weighted steering and smooth handling, and while its diesel rumble is noticeable, I like its sound.

It's hooked exclusively to a six-speed automatic transmission and includes an integrated exhaust brake that helps to slow the truck down on deceleration, a great feature when you're towing.

The Canyon's interior looks like a scaled-down version of the full-size GMC, with easy-to-use controls, comfortable front seats, and rear seats that flip up for access to covered storage cubbies below.

You can kit it out with a number of higher-end options, including navigation, forward collision alert, and heated leather seats.

Although I've listed competitors, all of them are gasoline-only.

For now, GM's twins are the only midsize trucks available with diesel. It's not an engine for everyone, but for those who work their trucks hard, it could potentially be the perfect choice.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 GMC CANYON

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, midsize pickup truck
Power. 2.8-litre four-cylinder diesel (181/369)
Transmission. Six-speed automatic
Price. \$31,360 (base SLE); \$47,690 (tested), plus destination

COOL FEATURES

- Duralife long-life brake rotors
- Bed-access step in the bumper end
- Available factory spray-in bedliner
- Easy-lift locking tailgate
- Apple CarPlay smartphone connectivity
- Available lane departure warning
- In-vehicle WiFi hot spot



2016 GMC CANYON PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH FOR METRO; ALL OTHERS HANDOUT

POINTS

- As with other diesels, it requires diesel exhaust fluid to control emissions.
- It won the midsize category at the Canadian Truck King Challenge last fall.
- The exhaust brake operates automatically depending on speed and incline.
- It can run on biodiesel, if you can find a station that carries it.

MARKET POSITION

- The diesel scandal has affected cars, but it's still a popular choice for pickup trucks. If enough buyers get past the Canyon engine's high buy-in, you might see other manufacturers offering it in smaller trucks as well.

THE COMPETITION



Toyota Tacoma
Base price: \$27,995



Nissan Frontier
Base price: \$23,148



Honda Ridgeline
Base price: TBA



The Canyon could be a good choice for tradespeople who need to haul loads into the city core.

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Mini races out a new convertible

TOKYO MOTOR SHOW

John Cooper Works edition takes it up a notch

Just three months after the standard convertible's unveiling at the Tokyo Motor Show, the hot John Cooper Works edition is

already racing on to the scene.

Announced on Friday, the new car keeps everything that is good about the latest cabriolet — a roomier, higher quality cabin, a sturdier chassis and a more focused driving experience — and turns the dial up noticeably.

But that doesn't mean that Mini has tightened a few bolts or tweaked the standard car's existing powerplant. The John

Cooper Works edition gets its own special TwinPower turbo two-litre four-cylinder unit. This offers 231bhp — that's 39hp more than any other current soft-top Mini can offer and 20hp more than the last generation John Cooper Works model could serve up. That extra power is channelled to the front wheels and, if it's via the optional Step-tronic transmission, will deliver a 0-100km/h time of 6.5 seconds.

With the standard manual transmission the car's 0.1 seconds slower to that mark but can hit a 242km/h top speed.

But Minis in general, and John Cooper models in particular, are about the all-round driving sensation. So to ensure this car feels as planted and as responsive as a go-kart, it's got Brembo brakes as standard plus speed-sensitive steering support to firm up or loosen the wheel. AFP



The new Mini John Cooper Works Convertible. ©MINI

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EURO NCAP

Volvo XC90 wins safest car award

Euro NCAP has named the Volvo's large XC90 off-roader the best performing vehicle of 2015 to undergo its raft of safety tests.

The crossover luxury SUV has become well known for its glut of safety mechanisms.

Its overall design and construction have resulted in a 97 per cent rating for adult occupants and a 100 per cent rating for its safety assist features.

Typically, crash test vehicles are driven into non-deformable or semi-deformable blocks at pre-defined speeds in order to determine the levels of safety offered to drivers and passengers; test assessments do not

typically evaluate the impact of a crash on other road users.

As well as winning the overall performance award, the XC90 also scooped the Large Off-Road category.

Other category winners included the Mercedes-Benz GLC (Small Off-Road), the Jaguar XE (Large Family), Infiniti Q30 (Small Family), Honda Jazz (Supermini), VW Touran (Small MPV), and Ford Galaxy / S-MAX (Large MPV.)

None of the tested roadsters achieved a five-star rating, leaving the Mazda MX-5 to collect best in class thanks to a four-star grade.

AFP



Volvo XC90 luxury SUV crossover has been engineered for its occupants' safety. ©VOLVO

IN BRIEF

Opel begins GT Concept slow tease

Car manufacturer Opel has started a slow tease of its next concept car, and one which the German company says is an expansion on its sculptural design philosophy.

The GT Concept will help motorists view the brand with "fresh eyes," according to CEO Karl-Thomas Neumann, who also appears in a trailer for the car model.

The two-seater Opel GT was introduced in 1965,

entered production in 1968, and was redesigned as a roadster in 2007.

A full reveal is expected at the Geneva Motor Show, March 3 to 13, while a second trailer has been promised for today.

Cars manufactured by the General Motors subsidiary are also sold as Vauxhall in the U.K., Holden in Australia and New Zealand, and under the Buick marque in North America, Mexico and China.

AFP

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Starting From Price for 2016 Jeep Cherokee Limited shown: \$34,540[‡]

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Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew shown: \$31,640[‡]



2016 DODGE JOURNEY CANADA VALUE PACKAGE CANADA'S FAVOURITE CROSSOVER[^]

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Starting From Price for 2016 Dodge Journey Crossroad shown: \$32,140[‡]

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Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from \$0 to \$1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from \$0 to \$1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.



Wise customers read the fine print: †, 0, •, ††, >, †, *, -, \$ The Cold Days Hot Deals Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected in-stock new and unused models purchased/leased from participating retailers on or after January 5, 2016. Offers subject to change and may be extended or changed without notice. All pricing includes freight (\$1,745), air-conditioning charge (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Financing and lease offers available to qualified customers on approved credit. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. †0% purchase financing for up to 84 months available on select new 2016 models to qualified customers on approved credit through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR)/2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4x4 (24A)/2016 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT (29E)/2016 Dodge Journey SXT (29E) with a Purchase Price of \$30,368/\$28,177/\$27,323/\$28,850 with a \$998/\$0/\$0/\$0 down payment, financed at 0% for 72/84/84/60 months equals 156/182/182/130 bi-weekly payments of \$188/\$155/\$150/\$222 with a cost of borrowing of \$0 and a total obligation of \$30,368/\$28,177/\$27,323/\$28,850. (\$9,000 in Total Discounts is available on new 2016 Ram 1500 models (excluding Reg Cab) and consists of \$7,500 in Consumer Cash Discounts and \$1,500 in Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest Bonus Cash. See your retailer for complete details. ^The Make No Financing Payments for 90 Days offer is a limited time offer which applies to retail customers who finance a new 2015/2016 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Ram or FIAT vehicle (excluding 2015/2016 Dodge Viper and Alfa Romeo) at a special fixed rate on approved credit for up to 96 months through Royal Bank of Canada and TD Auto Finance or for up to 90 months through Scotiabank. Monthly/bi-weekly payments will be deferred for 90 days and contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 90 days of the contract. After 90 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest over the term of the contract but not until 90 days after the contract date. Customers will be responsible for any required down payment, licence, registration and insurance costs at time of contract. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ††2.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4 (25A+AGR) with a Purchase Price of \$30,368 with a \$998 down payment, financed at 2.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of \$159 with a cost of borrowing of \$3,689 and a total obligation of \$34,056.96. >3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Example: 2016 Jeep Cherokee Sport FWD (24A) with a Purchase Price of \$26,175 with a \$0 down payment, financed at 3.49% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of \$144 with a cost of borrowing of \$3,862 and a total obligation of \$30,036.64. ‡3.99% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on select new 2016 models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Examples: 2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E)/2016 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) with a Purchase Price of \$20,995/\$20,150 with a \$0 down payment, financed at 3.99% for 96 months equals 208 bi-weekly payments of \$118/\$113 with a cost of borrowing of \$3,563/\$3,420 and a total obligation of \$24,558.35/\$23,569.94. *Jeep Cash/Consumer Cash Discounts are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. ^\$1,500 Ram Truck Loyalty/Conquest/Skilled Trades Bonus Cash is available on the retail purchase/lease of 2015/2016 Ram 1500 (excludes Regular Cab), 2014/2015/2016 Ram 2500/3500/Cab & Chassis, or 2015 Ram Cargo Van and is deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Eligible customers include: 1. Current owners/lessees of a Dodge or Ram Pickup Truck or Large Van or any other manufacturer's Pickup Truck or Large Van. The vehicle must have been owned/leased by the eligible customer and registered in their name on or before January 5, 2016. Proof of ownership/lease agreement will be required. 2. Customers who are skilled tradesmen or are acquiring a skilled trade. This includes Licensed Tradesmen, Certified Journeymen or customers who have completed Apprenticeship Certification. A copy of the Trade Licence/Certification required. 3. Customers who are Baumeier Approved service providers. Proof of membership is required. Limit one \$1,500 bonus cash offer per eligible truck transaction. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. ~Non-prime financing available on select models on approved credit. 4.99%/6.99% financing available on select 2016 models. Financing examples: 2016 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SXT 4x4/2016 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package with a Purchase Price of \$30,368/\$20,995 financed at 4.99%/6.99% over 84 months, equals 182 bi-weekly payments of \$192/\$146 with a cost of borrowing of \$5,488/\$5,614 and a total financing obligation of \$35,855.89/\$26,608.53. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. \$Starting From Prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g., paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. ~Based on 2014 Ward's Middle Class Utility segmentation. ^Based on IHS Automotive: Polk Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by FCA Canada Inc. *Jeep is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC used under license by FCA Canada Inc. ^The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.

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Boxing promoter Bob Arum plans to make a statement against Donald Trump with an all-Hispanic undercard on his next big pay-per-view

MLB

Rangers ace focus of gambling probe

Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish said he is not and has never been involved in gambling activities amid a Major League Baseball investigation, after the arrest of his younger brother in Japan.

Darvish issued a statement through his agent Tuesday that says he understands MLB must conduct an investigation.



Yu Darvish
GETTY IMAGES

"I am certain that they will find that I had no involvement in this matter whatsoever," Darvish said in the statement through his representatives at the Wasserman Media Group.

Sho Darvish was arrested in October in Japan for allegedly running an illegal gambling ring that reportedly took about 1,850 bets on MLB games as well as professional baseball games in Japan. The arrest came after an investigation of more than a year.

Darvish missed all of last season after having ligament replacement surgery in his right arm during spring training. The 29-year-old Darvish is not expected to be ready for the start of the season, but could be back sometime in May.

The Rangers signed Darvish from Japan before the 2012 season. In 83 starts from 2012-14, Darvish was 39-25 with a 3.27 ERA, with 680 strikeouts and 218 walks in 545-1/3 innings pitched.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Murray calls ATP ads 'hypocritical'

Andy Murray finds it "hypocritical" that tennis authorities are trying to stamp out match-fixing run by gambling syndicates but have partnered with a major gambling company that is now advertising on the Australian Open's show courts.



Andy Murray
GETTY IMAGES

The issues have collided at this year's Australian Open, where tennis was overshadowed for a second day Tuesday by allegations that match-fixing has gone unchecked in tennis.

Murray said the sport was sending mixed messages by allowing betting company William Hill to become one of the Australian Open's sponsor's this year and advertise on the tournament's three main show courts.

"I'm not really pro that," Murray, a four-time finalist in Melbourne said Tuesday, after advancing to the second round.

"I think it's a little bit hypocritical," Murray added. "You know, because I don't believe the players are allowed to be sponsored by betting companies, but the tournaments are. I don't really understand how it all works. I think it's a bit strange." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



It's doubtful John Scott's usual forte will be on display at the NHL all-star weekend later this month. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not-so-great Scott gets his all-star spot

NHL

Minor-leaguer will get to play in showcase game after all

John Scott's improbable road to the NHL all-star game took another twist Tuesday, with the league confirming he will keep his elected role as Pacific Division captain despite a trade and a demotion.

The journeyman tough guy was chosen to lead the Pacific team at the showcase tournament by a fan vote, but last week he was traded out of the division as part of a deal between Arizona and Montreal. The Canadiens promptly assigned him to the American Hockey League's St. John's IceCaps, making his eligibility for the all-star festivities on Jan. 30-31 in Nashville unclear.

Though the NHL did not publicly comment on the issue until Tuesday, there was some debate as to whether the league would

allow a lumbering, six-foot-eight fighter with 11 career points to play in a 3-on-3 tournament designed to showcase speed and skill.

Fans angry about the prospect of Scott not being allowed to play in the game took to social media over the weekend, creating a FreeJohnScott hashtag.

The NHL says Scott's move to a different division and his minor league assignment "created a unique circumstance that required review."

Scott told the Arizona Republic

when voting began that he didn't want to be voted into the all-star game.

"It would be cool, but I definitely don't deserve it at this point," he said. "You never know. There's still some time left. I could turn it on."

But later he warmed to the idea, printing T-shirts he planned to give to Pacific Division teammates that read: "Thanks for believing in me. Love always, The Captain." Those shirts were sold online for charity after the trade.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TENNIS

Nadal eliminated in Round 1

Rafael Nadal lost in the first round of a major for only the second time in his career, beaten in five sets by Fernando Verdasco at the Australian Open in a reversal of their epic, five-hour, 14-minute semifinal here seven years ago.

On Tuesday, Fernando Verdasco rallied from a 2-1 deficit and recovered a break

in the fifth set to claim a 7-6 (6), 4-6, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2 win in 4 hours and 41 minutes, only his third victory in 17 matches against his fellow Spanish left-hander.

There were two upsets on the women's side, with No. 2 Simona Halep and seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams also losing in the first round.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Habs have quickly become have-nots

Fire the coach? Make a big trade? Human sacrifice, perhaps?

OK, the last one is a stretch, but it is Montreal and it seems everyone has an antidote to what ails the Canadiens these days.

With the NHL club slumping badly in the past six weeks, the team's fan base is reeling and offering suggestions on how to stop its historic free fall.

"We need scorers, we need

big scorers," Matthew Messier, 21, said Tuesday as he minded the ticket booth at a downtown Montreal ice rink. "They need a real star — pay the price for a young guy who can score goals."

After starting the year at 9-0 — a

team record for the beginning of a season — and trailing for only 2:57 in that stretch, the Canadiens have been plummeting since losing all-world goalie Carey Price to injury for a second time on Nov. 25.

On Dec. 1, the team had a 19-4-3 record. Since Dec. 2, the Canadiens have managed nine points out of a possible 40, last in the league during that time.

As a deep freeze settled over Montreal and they prepared to play their bitter rivals from Boston on Tuesday night, the Cana-



Montreal coach Michel Therrien
GETTY IMAGES

10

Montreal led the Atlantic Division by 10 points over Ottawa at the end of November. They're now fifth in the division, seven points behind the leading Florida Panthers.

diens found themselves on the verge of falling out of a playoff spot. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE Margherita Pizza Dinner Waffles



PHOTO: MAMA YISNEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



- 1/4 cup fresh shaved Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup marinara sauce

Directions

1. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and garlic powder. Add the milk; stir until blended.
2. Heat your waffle iron to desired temperature.
3. Ladle the batter into preheated waffle iron and sprinkle with 1/4 cup mozzarella and basil. Cook the waffles until golden and crisp. Serve immediately with an extra sprinkle of mozzarella, Parmesan cheese and a side of marinara sauce for dipping.

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Our love of breakfast for dinner has forced us to create this addictive culinary mashup.

Ready in

Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 15 minutes

Makes 4 waffles

Ingredients

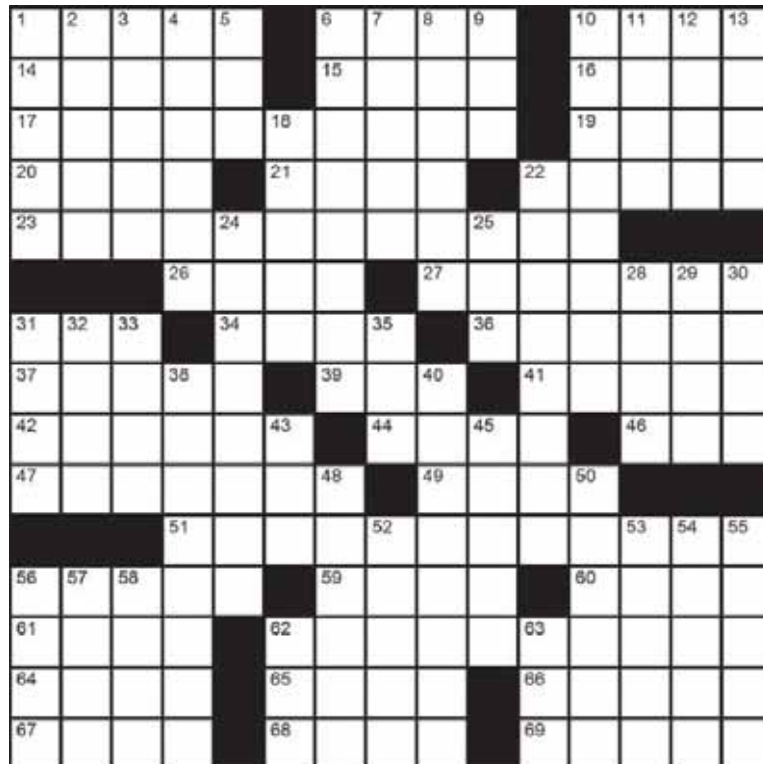
- 3 cups spelt flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup cubed mozzarella
- freshly chopped basil

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. 'Low budget', in an advertisement
6. ___-Carotene
10. ___-Cola
14. Denial to a Drill Sergeant: 2 wds.
15. Bert of "The Wizard of Oz" (1939)
16. Charge card, e.g.
17. Do this via eight glasses a day we're often told: 2 wds.
19. Tarry
20. "Makes sense.": 2 wds.
21. George Gershwin's 'Blue' musical work, briefly
22. Room service place
23. Where 'there is a town' in #24-Down: 2 wds.
26. Abominable snowman
27. TV host's directive to the standing audience: 2 wds.
31. Wilt
34. Monetary units in Albania
36. Jazz singer Ms. Holiday
37. Take ___ of faith
39. Director Mr. Mendes
41. Some shipbuilding woods
42. Helps
44. Ancient Rome: He who declared "Carthage must be destroyed."
46. In shape
47. Beer containers



49. Nautical hook
51. Events for getting tarot and palm readings: 2 wds.
56. Chills
59. Track event
60. Virginia willow
61. Italian harp
62. I'm Sorry! Canadians are known

- for their what?
64. Perceived
65. Sea lettuce
66. Bruce Cockburn's "If ___ Falls"
67. Musical quality
68. Country star Mr. Campbell
69. Quiet attention-getters

DOWN

1. "There's just no ___ sight!": 2 wds.
2. Rome's famous street, Via del ___
3. Wickerwork material
4. XC
5. Mork from ___
6. Shoes like Car-

- rie's on "Sex and the City", Manolo ___
7. Wear away: 2 wds.
8. 'Adventure Territory' town in Manitoba: 2 wds.
9. LAX posting
10. The whole kit and ___

11. Overlook
12. Formally give up
13. Figure skating jump
18. "Murder, She ___"
22. Socially click with someone: 3 wds.
24. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young song
25. Tease
28. Patron saint of Norway
29. Collaborative website name prefix
30. Branch 'building'
31. Swedish car
32. Inventor, Thomas ___ Edison
33. Equipment
35. Cul-de-quoi?
38. 1980 Leslie Nielsen movie!
40. Illusionist
43. Fox's adjective
45. Be silent, to a musician
48. Monk's manuscript
50. Dramatically falls to the floor
52. Bisect
53. Old Roman roads
54. Put back to zero
55. Mailing enclosures, commonly
56. Throw
57. Celebrated cookie
58. Receptive
62. Small dog
63. The Raven poet's monogram

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Group activities will become more important now that the Sun is moving in your favour. Join forces with like-minded people and see how far you can travel together. Find new ways to improve the world.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The Sun's move into the career area of your chart will boost ambitions. Be realistic about what you can achieve, the fewer goals you have the more energy you can put into them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
One of the most positive times of the year begins for you today. You'll be constantly busy the next few weeks, dealing with people and issues that inspire the best in you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You may feel left out today but don't — you're the one sending subconscious signals that you want to be left alone. You have a lot to think about and you can't think in a crowd.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
The Sun moves into your opposite sign today, which means you'll have to take other people's needs and desires into consideration. Remember: when doing good things for others you benefit yourself as well.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You tend to avoid situations that are hard to control, but what happens today will force you to take part in a stressful activity. You'll find that you do well when the pressure is on.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Whatever crises you've had to deal with of late you can now forget all about them. A new set of cosmic influences will provide you with no end of opportunities to show the world that you are back to your best.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Put your needs on hold for a while and do what you can to help loved ones and relatives. The more you do for others now the more freedom you will have later in the year.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will find it easier to make your own decisions and your first decision must be to distance yourself from someone who annoys you. Act as if they no longer exist.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Over the next few weeks you will have to work harder than ever. As a Capricorn you will never reach a point where you are satisfied with your lot.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun's move into your birth sign today makes this the ideal time to start new projects, but first you must give up on something that is not working. What you accomplish next will more than make up for it.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Pay attention to what your inner voice tells you. The more you think about what you are doing now the more enjoyable your life will be when the Sun enters your sign next month.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

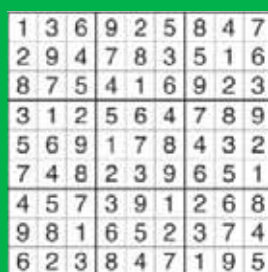
Every row, column and box contains 1-9



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to
metronews.ca/games



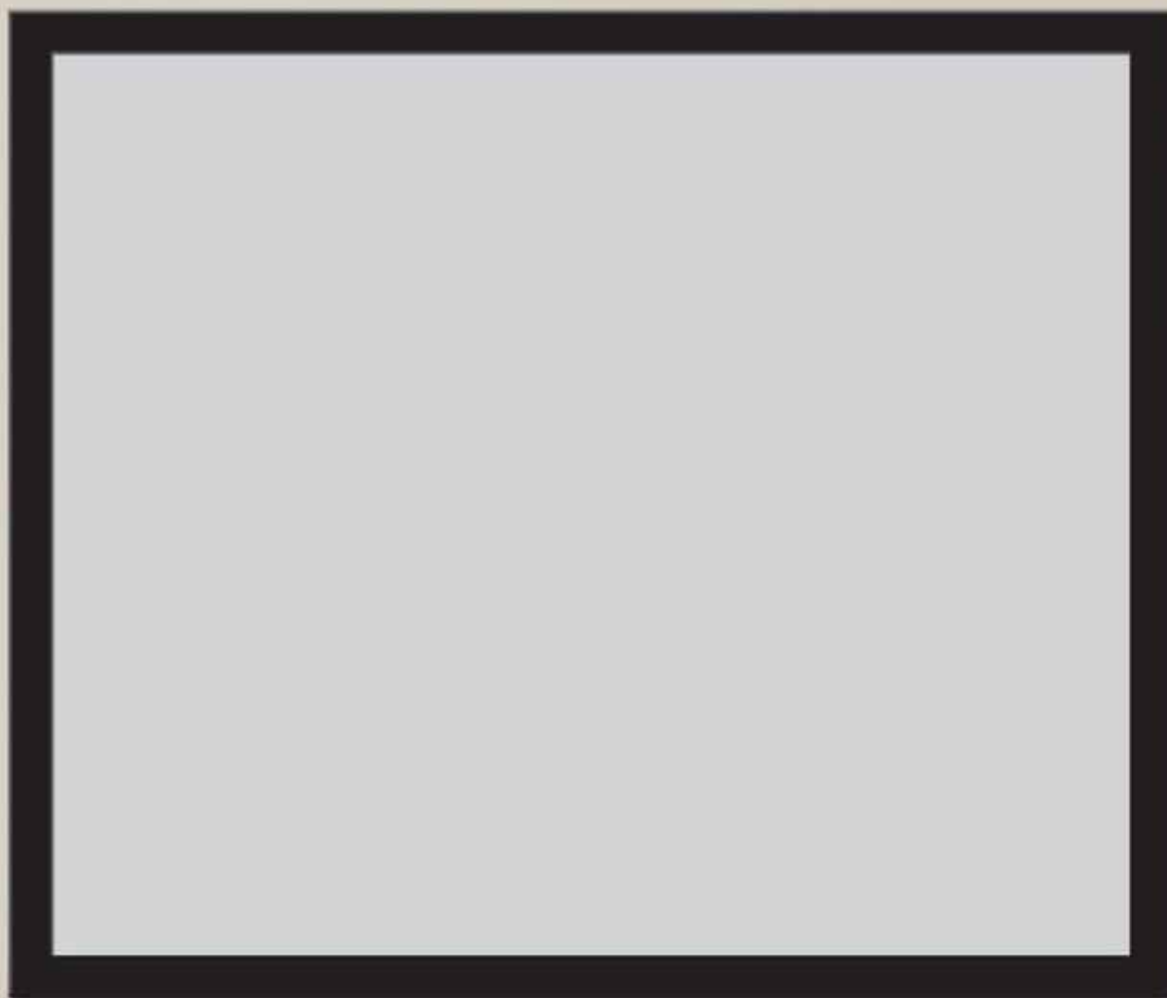
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